

House Watch

A summary of today's House actions;
published daily when the House is in session.



4/15/08

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

[HB 5600](#)

(Sak)

The bill would amend the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act to do all of the following:

- Require the recommendation of the Agriculture Commission for a renaissance zone for a renewable energy facility, if the facility used agricultural crops or residues, or processed products from agricultural crops, as its primary raw material source.
- Expand the definition of "renewable energy facility".
- Increase the number of distinct geographic areas in a renaissance zone that may have no minimum size requirement.
- Allow the designation of additional distinct geographic areas if they would increase either capital investment or job creation, rather than both.
- Allow a qualified local unit to seek to extend the duration of a zone regardless of whether it had not experienced significant development.
- Allow the board of the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) to revoke an extension of a renaissance zone's duration if increased capital investment or job creation would not begin within one year.
- Specify requirements for a written agreement regarding the extension of a renaissance zone's duration.
- Allow the MSF board to designate up to 14, rather 13, additional renaissance zones.
- Allow the MSF board to add property to an existing tool and die renaissance recovery zone under the same terms as the existing recovery zone, if certain conditions were met.
- Specify that a business would not be disqualified from receiving an exemption because it failed to file a business tax return for a year in which it had no tax liability.

- Enrollment vacated and House concurrence with Senate substitute reconsidered
- Meisner-2 was adopted
- The House concurred in the Senate substitute, as amended [RC 270: 105 yes, 1 no]

FINAL PASSAGE

HB 4817

(Green)

Authorization for use of volunteers to enforce parking violations.

- Committee amendments not adopted
- Green substitute H-1 adopted
- HB 4817 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 4817 was passed [RC 271: 82 yes, 25 no]
- IE was ordered

HB 5420

(Checks)

The Insurance Code has a standard for insurance rates, including automobile insurance rates, that says, "Rates shall not be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory." In further spelling out these criteria, the Insurance Code says: "A rate shall not be held to be excessive unless the rate is unreasonably high for the insurance coverage provided and a reasonable degree of competition does not exist for the insurance to which the rate is applicable." House Bill 5420 would strike the underlined language. The bill would also strike various provisions that refer to a determination by the commissioner of the Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) of whether or not a reasonable degree of competition exists.

- HB 5420 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5420 was passed [RC 264: 57 yes, 50 no]
- IE was not ordered [RC 265: 57 yes, 50 no]

HB 5558

(Jackson)

Each bill [HB 5558 and HB 5559] would amend the Insurance Code to specify that if the commissioner of the Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) disapproves a rate filing because the rates are excessive or unfairly discriminatory, he or she could order a refund of premiums to affected policyholders (as long as the amount is substantial and equals or exceeds the cost of making the refund). House Bill 5558 would apply to automobile and home insurance rates and would amend Section 2114, which allows a person or organization aggrieved by a rate filing to request the commissioner of OFIS to hold a hearing

- HB 5558 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5558 was passed [RC 266: 61 yes, 46 no]
- IE was not granted [RC 267: 62 yes, 45 no]

HB 5559

(Polidori)

Each bill [HB 5558 and HB 5559] would amend the Insurance Code to specify that if the commissioner of the Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) disapproves a rate filing

because the rates are excessive or unfairly discriminatory, he or she could order a refund of premiums to affected policyholders (as long as the amount is substantial and equals or exceeds the cost of making the refund). House Bill 5559 would amend Section 2418, which deals with casualty insurance rates, and Section 2618, which deals with fire and inland marine rates.

- HB 5559 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5559 was passed [RC 268: 61 yes, 45 no]
- IE was not granted [RC 269: 62 yes, 44 no]